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Graphite Industry

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results. They are producing graphite for other than crucible purposes, and the Quebec Graphite Co. is entering the field as a manufacturer of greases, stove polish, paints and other articles. The amorphous graphite deposits of Sonora, Mexico, were worked during 1920. This material is used for pencils, foundry facings, and like applications. There was practically no mining of graphite in either Madagascar or Ceylon in 1920, on account of the large supplies on hand and the prevailing low prices.

Prices—There was no market of consequence for graphite during 1920. Lump Ceylon graphite sold in Colombo for 7c. per lb. and in New York for 8½c. Madagascar flake of 85 per cent C sold in New York for 4c. per lb., and there are reported to be from 35,000 to 40,000 tons still stored in Madagascar, in Marseilles, and in New York. There has been no regular market for domestic flake, but sales have been made for 6c. per lb. and less, probably in almost every case at a price less than the cost of production.

Graphite Industry

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AGAIN the graphite producers of the world report a disastrous year. Indeed, there was greater depression during 1920 than in 1919. Although graphite is used in a large number of articles, the greater portion of the production has gone into the manufacture of graphite crucibles, for which only the best grades are suitable. Graphite from Ceylon has long held the field.

When the armistice was signed, the principal manufacturers of graphite crucibles had on hand large quantities of high-priced graphite, and the producers likewise had large supplies ready for shipment. The demand for crucibles diminished, and there still remain available large amounts of graphite produced under war conditions. The inevitable result was a fall in the market prices to a point below the cost of production. At present there remain unsold thousands of tons of Ceylon, Madagascar, and domestic graphite, and until this accumulated surplus has been absorbed there is little chance of general revival of the industry.

The Alabama graphite industry is practically stagnant. Several companies operated for short periods during the early part of 1920, but at the close of the year only the Superior Flake Graphite Co., of Clay County, and the Ceylon Co., of Coosa County, were in operation. In addition, the mill of the Flaketown Graphite Co., of Chilton County, was rebuilt and will soon begin operations. Similar conditions prevailed during the year in the graphite districts of New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Montana. Some graphite for paint was mined at L'Anse, Mich. Rhode Island continues to produce an impure variety for foundry facings.

In the opinion of persons familiar with the situation, the domestic flake-graphite industry cannot prosper unless Congress levies an import tax on the graphite of foreign countries.

Foreign Countries—The Black Donald Graphite Co., at Calabogie, Ontario; the Quebec Graphite Co., and the Consolidated Graphite Mining & Milling Co. of Buckingham, Quebec, operated during 1920. These mills have installed the Callow flotation system, with excellent